

MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION

Lieutenant Lenne Stolberg
Firefighter/Technician Francis Malta
Firefighter Jason Dickinson
Volunteer Lieutenant Peter Gorelick
Volunteer Firefighter Kurt Hornicek
Volunteer Firefighter Richard Lyons

On April 16, 2011, Frederick County experienced a substantial amount of rain, causing flash flooding, multiple road closures, and a high volume of 911 calls.

Shortly after 8:00 p.m. that day, Boat 2 was alerted for a swift water rescue in the area of Rocky Ridge Road and Frushour Road. While enroute, Emergency Communications advised them that they were on the phone with an individual whose vehicle was stranded in water. The occupant stated that the water was chest high and continuing to rise, . . . and at that point, the call disconnected.

Boat 2, being first on the scene, found a single vehicle approximately 300 feet off the roadway with water over the top of the hood. Boat 2's crew, along with three members of the Advanced Technical Rescue team, donned their water rescue personal protective equipment while additional personnel inflated and prepared the boat for deployment.

Because of varying water depths and obstacles, the boat had to be advanced upstream without the aid of a motor. It was a dangerous operation, but time was running out. Several personnel outfitted with throw bags were placed strategically along the bridge and stream banks in the event a rescuer was swept downstream. Then, in the darkness of night, hampered by a substantial current and water depths up to 4-1/2 feet deep, the six rescuers entered the water with the 12-foot Zodiac Boat.

Reaching the vehicle, the rescuers found a responsive, but pale and shivering, male occupant with water up to his shoulders. Two of the rescuers forced the passenger side door open against the water's current and gained access to the individual. After outfitting him with a personal flotation device and a helmet, the crew safely removed him from the vehicle, placed him into the boat, and transported him back to shore. There the patient, who appeared to be suffering from mild hypothermia,

was handed over to Emergency Medical Services for treatment and evaluation, and was later released.

For saving the life of an individual in need that day, and for risking their lives in extreme circumstances while doing so, . . . Lieutenant Lenne Stolberg, Technician Francis Malta, Firefighter Jason Dickinson, Volunteer Lieutenant Peter Gorelick, Volunteer Firefighter Kurt Hornicek, and Volunteer Firefighter Richard Lyons are hereby awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation.

Congratulations gentlemen!